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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,445	03/08/2001	Nabil M. Lawandy	902.0015USU	6481
29683	7590	09/08/2004	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				SONG, HOSUK
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2135		

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/801,445	LAWANDY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hosuk Song	2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) * | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-6,8-25,27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Leon(US 6,701,304).

Claim 1: Leon's patent discloses encoding an object by utilizing discernable physical attributes for encoding information regarding object in (fig.5 and col.2,lines 22-30). Leon discloses utilizing encoded information as at least one element for composing a digital watermark for object in (col.8,lines 14-23).

Claim 2: Leon discloses physical attributes further comprises a set of taggants in association with object, wherein set of taggants is comprised of members having discernable physical attributes predetermined for encoding information regarding object in (col.9,lines 45-52,61-67).

Claim 3: Leon discloses physical attributes comprises at least one of size and shape in (col.9,lines 42-44).

Claim 4: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise at least one of color and emission wavelength in (col.9,lines 18-20,61-65).

Claim 5: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise loading factor in (col.10,lines 1-8).

Claim 6: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise at least one of a radio frequency and a response to a radio frequency in (col.10,lines 2-8).

Claim 8: Leon discloses physical attributes are related to one or more dimensions of object in (col.8,lines 51-56).

Claim 9: Leon discloses detecting encoded information in digital watermark in (col.8,lines 14-23). Leon discloses authenticating object by comparing encoded information with discernable physical attributes of object in (col.13,lines 18-33).

Claim 10: Leon's patent discloses digitally watermarking a barcode in (col.8,lines 51-56;col.9,lines 49-52). Leon discloses associating digitally watermarked barcode with object in (col.12,lines 30-67;col.13,lines 13-33).

Claim 11: Leon discloses encoding additional information into digitally watermarked barcode in (col.8,lines 54-56).

Claim 12: Leon discloses additional information comprises at least one of date of manufacture, a country of origin, and an authorized distribution channel in (col.8,lines 62-65;col.11,table I).

Claim 13: Leon discloses additional information is retrieved from digitally watermarked barcode by use of a key in (col.2,lines 24-39;col.13,lines 34-40).

Claim 14: Leon discloses encoding a key in digitally watermarked barcode such that failure to read a digital watermark in digitally watermarked barcode in an inability to read barcode in (col.13,lines 33-42).

Claim 15: Leon discloses encoding an object by utilizing discernable physical object attributes for encoding information regarding object in (fig.5 and col.2,lines 22-30). Leon discloses utilizing encoded information as a key to retrieve data encoded in a digital watermark associated with object in (col.2,lines 24-39;col.13,lines 34-40).

Claim 16: Leon discloses authenticating object by utilizing data encoded in digital watermark in (col.13,lines 34-42).

Claim 17: Leon discloses a set of taggants in association with object, wherein set of taggants is comprised of members having discernable physical attributes predetermined for encoding information regarding object in (col.9,lines 45-52,61-67).

Claim 18: Leon discloses encoding an object by utilizing discernable physical object attributes for encoding information regarding object in (fig.5 and col.2,lines 22-30). Leon discloses utilizing encoded information as a key to retrieve data encoded in a digital watermark associated with object in (col.2,lines 24-39;col.13,lines 34-40).

Claim 19: Leon discloses encoding a key in digitally watermarked barcode such that failure to read a digital watermark in digitally watermarked barcode in an inability to read barcode in (col.13,lines 33-42).

Claim 20: Leon discloses physical attributes further comprises a set of taggants in association with object, wherein set of taggants is comprised of members having discernable physical attributes predetermined for encoding information regarding object in (col.9,lines 45-52,61-67).

Claim 21: Leon discloses utilizing encoded information as a key to read a digital watermark in digitally watermarked barcode in (col.2,lines 24-39;col.13,lines 34-40).

Claim 22: Leon discloses physical attributes comprises at least one of size and shape in (col.9,lines 42-44).

Claim 23: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise at least one of color and emission wavelength in (col.9,lines 18-20;61-65).

Claim 24: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise loading factor in (col.10,lines 1-8).

Claim 25: Leon discloses physical attributes comprise at least one of a radio frequency and a response to a radio frequency in (col.10,lines 2-8).

Claim 27: Leon discloses physical attributes are related to one or more dimensions of object in (col.8,lines 51-56).

Claim 28: Leon discloses a detector for detecting physical attributes and a watermark associated with object in (fig.5). Leon discloses a decoder for decoding information encoded by physical attributes and information included in watermark for at one of identifying or authenticating object in (col.13,lines 34-42).

Claim 29: Leon discloses physical attributes further comprises a set of taggants in association with object, wherein set of taggants is comprised of members having discernable physical attributes predetermined for encoding information regarding object in (col.9,lines 45-52,61-67).

Claim 30: Leon discloses a source for illuminating set of taggants, wherein detector detects at least one emission wavelength in response to the illumination in (col.9,lines 16-52).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7,26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon(US 6,269,169).

Claims 7,26: Leon does not specifically disclose physical attributes comprises at least one of magnetic field and a response to a magnetic field. Official notice is taken that physical attributes comprises at least one of magnetic field and a response to a magnetic field is well known in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ magnetic

field so that taggants can be detected while invisible to the eye thus enhancing security of the object.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Oshima et al.(US 6,266,299).
- b. Cass et al.(US 5,946,414).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hosuk Song whose telephone number is 703-305-0042. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

** Please note of following changes starting 10/25/2004**.

- a) New telephone number for TC 2100 receptionist is 571-272-2100.
- b) New contact number for Examiner is 571-272-3857
- c) New contact number for Examiner's supervisor is 571-272-3859.

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